GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2091
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
INCREASE IN BPL POPULATION
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a high level investigation team to look into the causes of apparent rise in Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in certain States while preparing BPL list;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (c): While the number and proportion of population living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) at the national and State level is estimated by the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census to identify the BPL households in the rural areas who could be assisted under its various programmes. In the guidelines of BPL Census 2002, the States and UTs were requested to identify the total number of BPL families as determined by the Planning Commission for each State and UT respectively with 10% flexibility to account for the transient poor.

The Ministry has not constituted any high level investigation team to look into the causes of rise in BPL population while preparing the BPL list. However, in order to redress the public grievances, an institutional arrangement in the form of two-stage appeal mechanism has been provided. Under this system, an objection to the BPL list can be filed before the SDM or the Tehsildar as the case may be. People still having objections can file the second appeal with the District Collector.